

Attendees: Sattia Chozo, Dr. Forrest Crawford, Robert Harter, Jenny Hor, Claudia Nakano, Ed Napia, Joseph Nicholas, Gary Oliver, Shirlee Silversmith, Winston Wilkinson

Excused: Dr. Freddie Cooper, Mac McCullough

Unexcused: Dr. Roderic Land, Jasen Lee

Welcome – Winston Wilkinson

Winston welcomed all the attendees to the MLK Commission meeting.

Pastor France A. Davis Banquet:

- Winston suggested creating a presentation for the banquet.
- Claudia suggested all Commission members attending present Ed's artwork to Pastor Davis.
- Commission members agreed that the presentation given must be short, possibly a maximum of two minutes long. Also, it was agreed that the plaque should be read and that Ed be recognized as the artist.

History of MLK Commission – Dr. Forrest Crawford

- Forrest kept as many files as possible since he has been involved with the Commission. The files date back from approximately 1986-1995.
- In his collection, Forrest has some documents labeled as "primary document files," which refer to files that are the only known copy in Forrest's possession.
- The passage of Senate Bill 17 (S.B. 17), which was the senate bill that Senator Terry Williams presented to the legislature, established a Utah state holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - S.B. 17 was a compromise bill in which the state holiday was known as Human Rights Day rather than Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
 - Coretta Scott King visited the legislature in hopes of naming the holiday after her husband.
- In the early 1990s, the Commission wanted to add an honorary street name to 600 South in Salt Lake City.
 - Forrest stated that the Commission's intent was to include "Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard" to a designated section of 600 South ("The 6th South Campaign"). According to Forrest, the honorary name designation was a defining project for the Commission.
 - The 6th South Campaign created controversy in that businesses did not want 600 South to be renamed, as that would result in businesses needing to change their addresses.
 - A poll of Salt Lake City residents indicated that over 2/3 of residents did not want 600 South to be changed. One concern was that Dr. King never visited Utah. This is incorrect as Forrest contacted J.D. Williams from the University of Utah, who recounted Dr. King making a visit to Utah on January 31, 1961. The University of Utah invited Dr. King to speak.
 - Forrest said that the addition of Dr. King's name was never meant to "rename" 600 South. The street name of "600 South" would remain throughout the entire street with certain sections additionally bearing "Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard."

- One of the challenges that the Commission has continually faced is commemorating the King Holiday as other organizations have set aside specific times and events, leaving the Commission with scheduling conflicts. To alleviate this problem, Commission members went to separate events and served as representatives of the Commission.
- For several years, the Commission was invited to open the Utah legislative session during the King Holiday. A commemorative speech was given. This tradition has dissipated over time.
- The Commission also wrote op-ed pieces for greater name recognition.
- A critique of the Commission was that the activities the Commission engaged in were in the Salt Lake area but the Commission was deemed a “state commission.” A valid critique, according to Forrest, the Commission traveled throughout the state visiting Dixie State College, the Cedar City Council, the city of Price, the Provo City Council, and the Weber County Commission.
- Forrest wants the Commission to be at the forefront of Dr. King commemorations, or be “keepers” of the holiday, rather than taking a more sidelined approach. Forrest believes what makes the Commission respectable is the consistency of presence.
- Joseph inquired about Dr. Crawford’s files if they were to ever be unaccounted for and how to go about archiving the files.
 - Claudia suggested presenting the files to the Utah State Archives.
 - Shirlee suggested passing on the files to Kristen Jensen for digitalization.
 - Forrest stated that he is offering his files to the Special Collections department at Weber State University for archiving, which may make the digitalization process easier for the Commission.
- Gary proposed creating a video documentary where Forrest speaks on the history of the Commission for archival purposes.
 - Joseph said that the archival of Forrest’s files should be taken care of first before moving onto a video documentary.
 - Rob likes the idea of a video documentary. He stated the importance of using social media to help promote the Commission as many people tend to be visual learners. Rob also has network ties with the Sundance Film Festival.
- Joseph wants the Commission to disregard the activities of other organizations and to recognize the Commission as a separate entity with its own primary purpose and goals. He said that if the Commission continues to concern itself with other organizations and their activities, the Commission will not achieve as much as it can. However, this is not to say that the Commission should not work with other organizations.

Executive Order

- Forrest said that while looking over the Executive Order, it might be helpful to create thematic categories of how the Commission might organize its activities (e.g., outreach to public education, partnerships).
- According to the Executive Order, the Commission must present a report to the Governor annually. This annual report states the activities of the Commission.
- Claudia mentioned that the plans of the Commission are also included in the annual report she submits to the Governor.
- The reinstatement of the Commission is under the discretion of the Governor.

Action Plans and Strategies – Commission Discussion

- Claudia suggested creating a speaker’s bureau to allow members of the Commission to be in the public’s radar and to get in contact with the media.

- Claudia also suggested some cost-friendly activities which include taking schoolchildren back-to-school shopping and setting up book drives.
- Joseph offered the following suggestions:
 - identify a day for the Commission to function in the community as a separate entity with the news media present (e.g., a luncheon);
 - coordinate with other civil rights and social justice groups to be supporters and active participants; and
 - work with churches and ask to be a part of services.
- Claudia stated that the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism (UServeUtah) offers grants that the Commission can apply for. These grants can be used to fund service-oriented projects for the King Holiday.
- For the King Holiday, Rob suggested having Commission members split up into teams and attend separate events.
- Forrest suggested mapping out a 12-month plan, which lists the possible activities that the Commission can partake in.
- Joseph recommended adopting a school in Salt Lake City.
 - Shirlee said that schools need volunteers who assist students with reading.
 - Gary has coordinated with Escalante Elementary School and stated that the school would appreciate volunteers.
- Claudia would like Commission members to attend events hosted by other members of the Commission.
- Shirlee would like to have Commission members attend the Native American Summit and present at a breakout session.
- Ed wants the Commission to create a brand or graphic representation.
 - Forrest suggested creating brochures. He said that prior Commissions created brochures that listed the activities and goals of the Commission.
 - Ed has an artist friend who might be able to design a brand. He also suggested Stanford Kekauoha as a possible artist.
- Shirlee wants to update the Commission's website.
- Gary and Claudia suggested each Commission member bring in a youth to a future meeting.

Commission members brainstormed the following ideas for activities that the Commission can participate in:

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| • Adopt-a-school (i.e., Escalante Elementary School) | • Indigenous Thanksgiving |
| • Church or interfaith functions | • Create subcommittees according to geography or interests |
| • Special Olympics | • Mondays in the Park |
| • Monthly op-ed articles | • Juneteenth celebrations |
| • Mentoring | • La Raza |
| • Multicultural Affairs quarterly newsletter | • Multicultural Youth Leadership Summit |
| • Collaborations with colleges and universities | • Exhibit tables at conferences |
| • Speaking engagements | • Cultural and ethnic events |
| • Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest | • National Day of Prayer |
| • Traveling art exhibits | • Women's Health Event |
| • Participate in existing events | • Hispanic Chamber of Commerce |
| • Native American Summit | • Fundraising |
| | • Wounded Warriors |

The Commission plans to commit to the following activities for the month of May:

- Escalante Elementary School graduation – Gary Oliver
 - Adopt-a-School (i.e., Escalante Elementary School) – Gary Oliver
 - Mentoring – Joseph Nicholas
 - National Day of Prayer – Rob Harter
 - Women’s Health Event – Ed Napia
 - Pastor France A. Davis Banquet – Commission Members
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Action Items

- Winston would like everyone to reply to the emails sent out to them.
- The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18th at 10:00 am in the Rio Board Room.